

Appl. No. 10/810,456

Amdt. Dated February 9, 2006

Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2006

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Office action mailed January 3, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-4, and 6-39 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 22, 26, and 31 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 4, 15, 22, 26, 28, and 31 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 6, 17, 23, 29, and 32 have been cancelled. Claims 13, 14, and 34-39 were previously withdrawn. The Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 6, 17, 23, 29, and 32. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,407,745 ("Jacobson"). Claims 3, 4, 15, 16, 18-22, 24-28, 30, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Jacobson in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,799,586 ("Caras").

Independent claims 1, 15, 22, and 31 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 6, 17, 23, 29, and 32, respectively. Accordingly, the above rejections are now moot, and the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1, 15, 22, 26, and 31 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

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The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

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